

# The Transportation Times

ASHE DELAWARE VALLEY SECTION

2010-11 EDITION #4

## Delaware Valley Section Patron (D.V.S.P.) Program – Six Years Strong!

The Section started the D.V.S.P. Program in the 2005-06 season to allow supporting firms to be recognized. We are proud to note that 18 firms are participating in the Program thus far this season. By doing so, they have helped to make it a success once again.

Many thanks to those of you who have signed up and helped support the Section's many activities.

As in the past, the basic level of support (\$100) will remain as it has been since the start of the program. **We are offering a "website" level as well, which, for \$150, will allow your logo to be placed on our website as well as in THE TRANSPORTATION TIMES, with a hyperlink directly to your website.**

If you are not in this Program and would like to join, please contact Section President Rob Prophet or Director/Editor of

THE TRANSPORTATION TIMES Bob Wright (contact information is given on page 6).

**As you may be aware, the proceeds of the D.V.S.P. go directly to support the Section's Scholarship Fund.**

## 2010-11 Meeting Dates – Winding Down...

As a reminder, after our March meeting, there will be one more Section meeting this season, which will take place on **April 20.**

A Technical Session will be conducted in March (please see page 5 for more information on this). As always, if you have any thoughts on topics or would like to present a session, please pass this along and the Board will explore it.

**Please note that Dinner prices have increased this year to help the Section cover ever-rising costs.** A separate article on page 6 outlines these changes.

## A Message from President Rob Prophet



As I look out my window, I am finally starting to see some small signs of Spring. The weather is getting a little warmer, the snow is starting to melt and there are actually a few birds chirping in the distance. Unfortunately, the change in the weather-related climate has not brought about a change in the funding-related climate. According to a recent congressional commission, the gap between current revenues available for surface transportation and capital needs each year is \$137 billion. Similar problems are also seen at the state level where a recent Pennsylvania Transportation Advisory Committee report determined that the state needs to invest at least an additional \$3.5 billion per year to meet its highway, bridge and transit needs. This additional funding will go towards lowering the number of structurally deficient bridges - Pennsylvania leads the nation in the number of structurally deficient bridges with 5,646 – as well as improving the quality of our roads – Pennsylvania has over 7,000 miles of state roads in poor condition.

The obvious question is - how can we as an organization help to improve this situation? One of the answers is to communicate with your local politicians the importance of an adequately funded transportation system, including how it improves safety, relieves congestion, promotes economic growth and ultimately creates jobs. One group that is actively involved with this is the Keystone Transportation Funding Coalition. This group, partially comprised of current ASHE members, is actively meeting with local politicians throughout the state to discuss transportation funding needs. Reports from the individual meetings with the local politicians will be given to the new Secretary of Transportation this Spring. This organization has created a website dedicated to transportation funding dialogue throughout the state ([www.reconnectpa.org](http://www.reconnectpa.org)). I encourage the Delaware Valley ASHE membership to take a few minutes to visit the website.

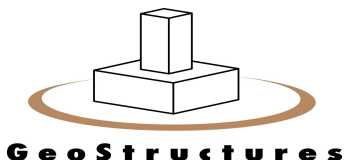
In terms of ASHE related news, I would like to remind everyone that the National Conference this year is in beautiful Orlando, Florida from June 22 to June 26. Both

registration and sponsorship opportunities are still available. Please visit the conference website at [www.ashe2011.org](http://www.ashe2011.org). In addition, ASHE National has recently created a new discussion board on the National Website at [www.highwayengineers.org](http://www.highwayengineers.org). This discussion board provides a place for members to post discussion topics and ask questions of other members.

In terms of Section News, we are happy to report that a new contract has been signed with our Section's website provider which has allowed us to update our website on a more regular basis. This has allowed us to add a webpage dedicated to PDH documentation, including the meeting announcements, sign-in sheets and presentation materials. We appreciate everyone's patience while we were trying to get this initiative in place. Please visit the section website at [www.ashedv.org](http://www.ashedv.org). In addition, please feel free to contact me directly at [rprophet@trafficpd.com](mailto:rprophet@trafficpd.com) if you have any suggestions as to how we can continue to improve the section website.

**DVSP MEMBER FIRMS 2010-11 Thanks for your support!**

**\*\*\* Five-Year Participants \*\*\***



**Engineers Week Banners on Display**

If you were in Center City Philadelphia in February, you may have noticed the banners proclaiming the celebration of Engineers Week displayed on the street light poles on Broad Street and Locust Street. The banners were installed on these streets outside the DoubleTree Hotel (the site of the Delaware Valley Engineers Week Awards and Proclamation Luncheon), and were there for most of the month.

Our Section, along with 11 other local technical society chapters, sponsored banners in this effort to show our support of Delaware Valley Engineers Week activities. It is anticipated that the banners will also have a functional life of five years, so you'll be seeing these placed in advance of Engineers Week for the foreseeable future.

The Engineers' Club of Philadelphia, which administers Engineers Week activities through its Delaware Valley Engineers Week Committee, thanks all banner sponsors as well as all supporters of and participants in Engineers Week. The three local events were once again successful and your support is greatly appreciated.



## Delaware Valley Section Officers and Board of Directors - 2010-11 Season

**Rob Prophet, President**  
Traffic Planning & Design Inc.  
**Don Stark, First Vice President**  
Ammann & Whitney Inc.  
**Bruce Masi, Second Vice President**  
Gannett Fleming Inc.

**Bill Dougherty, Treasurer**  
**Stephanie Butler, Secretary**  
McMahon Associates Inc

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### Board of Directors

Term expires 2011

**Matt Marquardt**  
Urban Engineers Inc.  
**Bob Milliken**  
Underground Services Inc.  
**Dilip Radadia**  
Jacobs  
**Don Steele**  
Penna. Turnpike Commission

Term expires 2012

**Elaine Elbich**  
Penna. Dept. of Transportation  
**Phil Mandato**  
Felix Mandato & Sons Inc.  
**Curt Shugars**  
Pennoni Associates Inc.  
**Bob Wright**  
Urban Engineers Inc.

Term expires 2013

**Pete Berthold**  
Penna. Dept. of Transportation  
**Jeff Given**  
Loftus Construction Inc.  
**Jeff Obrecht**  
Apex Companies LLC

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**Scott Sibley, Regional Director**  
Gannett Fleming Inc.

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**Dick Prentice, Past President (ASHE National)**  
McMahon Associates Inc.

The Section is attempting to have the several components of the Society (contractors/suppliers, government/DOT, and consultants) appropriately and proportionally represented on our Board. **We are keeping one vacant Board position open for a representative of one of these areas in order to retain this balance. If you meet these requirements and are interested in serving on the Board, we would like to hear from you.**

We have also attempted to streamline our Board to operate more efficiently and to have standing committees report to, rather than necessarily being chaired by, Board members.

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## Members/Agencies in Transportation

### Elbich Named WTS Woman of the Year

Past Section President **Elaine Elbich** was honored as the **2010 Woman of the Year** by the Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS), Philadelphia Chapter. Elaine formally received this award at the Chapter's 2010 Awards Dinner which was conducted on December 16.

Elaine has been with PennDOT District 6 for the past 22 years, having gone to the DOT straight from college, and rose through the ranks to her present position of Portfolio Manager. She has always found time to be active in technical societies over the years despite the demands of her position and family. She has been on our Section's Board since 1992 and served as Section President in 1996-97. The Engineers' Club of Philadelphia recognized her as the Delaware Valley Young Engineer of the Year in 1998.

She has served as a role model to young women in or considering the engineering profession throughout her career and has mentored many young women who would like to become engineers.

**Belated Congratulations, Elaine!**

### PennDOT District 6 Cited for "Innovative Transportation Solution"

The **SR 76 ITS Project** was cited accordingly by the Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS), Philadelphia Chapter at the Chapter's 2010 Awards Dinner. This effort constructed a network of intelligent transportation system (ITS) devices that provide automatic incident detection, traffic volume, speed and occupancy reporting and the capability to relay real-time information to motorists.

This project placed closed circuit television cameras, dynamic message signs, vehicle detectors and travel time readers on I-76 from I-476 to I-95 and included short segments of US 1 and PA 291 in Philadelphia.

It overcame many design challenges and progressed on a fast-track basis with an aggressive construction schedule. It additionally faced the realities of elevated roadways, steep slopes, urban and suburban landscapes, and working under the busy traffic on these highways. Despite this, the effort was delivered successfully on time and within budget.

Jacobs served as the project design consultant.

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## ASHE Mission Statement

**"Provide a forum for members and partners of the highway industry to promote a safe, efficient and sustainable highway system through education, innovation and fellowship"**

## Professional Development Hours/Tracking

As another benefit of your membership and participation in ASHE, our Section's meeting program will generally be able to be counted toward your continuing education requirement, depending on the topic. The Section will use our judgment to advise if a particular meeting may not be able to qualify. We do NOT ensure and/or guarantee that these events will be eligible to be counted toward professional development hour (PDH) credits. The specific requirements for this are available on the Pennsylvania Department of State's website at [www.dos.state.pa.us/eng](http://www.dos.state.pa.us/eng) for your information. A similar program is being implemented in New Jersey and we will provide more background on this as we receive it.

The Section will provide the forms and documentation as described below **to our members**, as a service, to assist you in securing the credits you need to keep your license status intact. One important aspect of this program is that the responsibility for record-keeping and accounting for your qualifying hours remains with the individual, thus YOU should keep accurate documentation. You may need backup and/or clarifying data in the event you are called to an audit by the State Board.

The Section will provide a sign-in sheet which will verify your attendance at a meeting, technical session, or other eligible activity. The sheet will be available for you to sign at the conclusion of the meeting (in many ways this ensures that you have attended the meeting, not just showed up to sign in). The sign-in sheet for each meeting will be posted on our website ([www.ashedv.org](http://www.ashedv.org)) and can be downloaded by individuals to be used for documentation purposes.

The Section will NOT be issuing personal or individual certificates for events. The sign-in sheet, as noted above, can serve as supporting information and can be used for your

We appreciate your patience and understanding in this regard and welcome feedback (and assistance if you would like to help our record-keeping efforts).

record-keeping purposes as you see fit.

The documentation may not be instantaneously available on our website immediately following any event. As you are aware, the Section is a volunteer organization and there will accordingly be a short time lag in the uploading of sign-in sheets on our website. We do promise that all documentation for a season will be uploaded by June 30 of that season so it will be available for your license renewal (generally on October 1 of the odd-numbered year in Pennsylvania).

## Donna Prentice Memorial Section Scholarship Competition – 2010-11 Awards Made in February

At our February Section meeting, Scholarship Committee Chair Don Stark recognized seven recipients of this year's Section Scholarships. Four of the Scholarship winners were able to be present for the dinner and be personally cited for their achievement (see photo below). A total of \$5100 was awarded among the successful candidates:

Michael Colletti, Villanova University  
 Andrew Hogan, Villanova University  
 Matthew Jackson, Widener University  
 Austin Mattus, Villanova University  
 Ryan McCarthy, Widener University  
 Meredith Wendell, Widener University  
 Thomas Zabriskie, Drexel University

**Congratulations to all of our Scholarship winners!** The Scholarship Program was started by the Section in 1972 and has benefited numerous local college students, many of whom have gone on to become ASHE members after graduation. The Scholarship was renamed in honor of the late **Donna Prentice**, wife of longtime Section member and Past National President Dick Prentice, in 2003.



Scholarship recipients Ryan McCarthy, Meredith Wendell, Austin Mattus and Matthew Jackson at our February Section meeting

## Still a Little Time for Nominations for Section Officers to be Made...

The Delaware Valley Section will shortly be opening nominations for new Officers and Directors for the 2011-12 season. We anticipate that several vacancies will open on the Section's Board of Directors for terms ending in 2014 as well as the Second Vice President position.

Nominations can be made to First Vice President Don Stark ([dstark@ammann-whitney.com](mailto:dstark@ammann-whitney.com) or 215-567-1341, ext. 234). **Nominations are due by March 16** (the date of our March Section/Board meeting). The proposed slate of incoming nominees will be announced at the March Section meeting.

You can contact Don for a list of open offices and positions on the Board of Directors.

## National Convention in Orlando



The ASHE Central Florida Section and the Southeast Region are pleased to host the 2011 National Conference from June 22-26, 2011 and support ASHE's mission - *to provide a forum for partners of the highway industry to promote a safe, efficient and sustainable highway system through education, innovation and fellowship.*

We plan to make this event an opportunity to **Expand Your Transportation Network.**

More information is available on National's website ([www.highwayengineers.org](http://www.highwayengineers.org)) and at the Convention website ([www.ashe2011.com](http://www.ashe2011.com)).

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## HOLD THE DATE - Legislative Affairs Day, May 10

For the fifth consecutive year, the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers (PSPE), the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) and others, are planning **Legislative Day** to visit legislators and highlight infrastructure needs. **This will take place in Harrisburg on Tuesday, May 10. Your participation and voice are needed to let our legislators know how important the infrastructure issue is to our economy and our daily lives.**

We encourage you to attend and ask your employer to support you in this important event. More information will be provided in the next edition of THE TRANSPORTATION TIMES.

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## Technical Sessions – One More

The Section is pleased to offer short technical sessions prior to selected monthly meetings. Through these sessions, we provide our members with instruction on a variety of transportation subjects using the technical expertise and knowledge of our membership. While geared towards younger members, these sessions are open to the entire ASHE membership. Through these sessions, we provide our members with instruction on a variety of transportation subjects using the technical expertise and knowledge of our membership.

We are pleased that the Sessions offered have been such a great success. Attendance has been excellent and feedback very positive, and, as a result, others are volunteering to instruct future classes.

**To our members and guests, we remind you that these sessions are held on the same day as our Section dinner meeting but require separate reservations.** The technical sessions generally begin at 4:00 PM/4:30 PM to be finished in time for our dinner meeting.

**On March 16, Timothy Brennan of Nave Newell, Inc. will discuss the technology and benefits of 3-D and high-definition surveying.** 3D laser scanning technologies provide opportunities for unprecedented speed, accuracy, and comprehensiveness in field surveying and as-built plan generation. From simpler architectural renovations to highway and bridge design and construction monitoring, 3D and high-definition surveying offers benefits imagined only a few years ago. Mr. Brennan will discuss these benefits and planning and cost considerations through several completed and projects currently underway.

For our 2011-12 season, we will be looking once again for our members to instruct Technical Sessions. Among the topics suggested are design/build project planning; alternative materials use in highway construction; professional license examination preparation; and several transportation project details unable to be covered in the dinner meeting discussions. We welcome your thoughts and remind you that you can obtain twice the PDH credit for instruction.

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## Drexel PRO Benefits Available to Section Members

Through a collaboration between Drexel University and ASHE, ASHE members and their immediate family members can now earn a degree or certificate and receive special tuition rates when you enroll in one of Drexel's online program. This includes 10-25% off the regular on-campus tuition rates for these programs, a convenient online format without commuting or career interruption, top-ranked programs from a distinguished provider, one of "America's Best Colleges 2010", tuition reimbursement, loans and grants are available depending on eligibility, and no application fee.

To learn more about this, please contact Drexel Applicant Services at 866-803-0053 or [partners@drexel.edu](mailto:partners@drexel.edu).

Check Out Our Updated Website  
[www.ashedv.org](http://www.ashedv.org)

## Why Join ASHE?

*Several years ago, Scott Sibley, our Regional Director, put this nicely-written article together to remind us of the benefits of ASHE membership. We repeat it here for your information.*

Are you a shoplifter? Do you walk in the store, see that no one is around, and put the stuff you want in your pocket? When someone else opens the newspaper "honor box", do you quickly grab one, too? If someone lends you a pen to sign a document, do you put it in your pocket? What if it is a really nice pen?

Do you let others support your professional society and just come to the dinner meetings? Would you consider these benefits compelling enough to push you to become a member of a technical society:

- The ability to tap into over 6000 professionals nationwide to draw on their collective experience and knowledge
- Networking, passing cards, and developing lasting business relationships
- Being able to obtain continuing education credit for your professional license
- An asset on your resume and a commitment to your industry
- Being part of an inclusive group with inspectors, technicians, contractors, engineers and clients.

Can this society convey your opinions and voice to the correct levels for recognition and action? Many sections have seen ASHE as an advocacy group for the industry. ASHE has been providing the members with information on some bills in consideration in the legislature that could have a big impact on the way consultants work in various states and localities.

ASHE Board Members have been visiting key people in the DOT and in the legislature to make the opinions of the people who design and build highways known. You may see this same benefit both here in Pennsylvania. Will you be involved in those decisions, or will you find out about them in the paper after the decisions are made?

ASHE is working on the future of our industry as well. Our Section provides scholarships to college students studying Civil Engineering or other highway-related fields. We support elementary school students by providing an award in the Future City contest. We reach out to high school students interested in the field through an award to the Delaware Valley Science Fairs. We provide speakers at school career days.

ASHE is the organization for people in the Highway Industry. Structural Engineers, Environmental Scientists, Geotechnical Engineers, Technicians, Construction Managers, Inspectors, Owners, Contractors. ASHE provides the forum for discussion and interaction at all levels and all branches of the industry.

If you are a member of ASHE, you should be proud of this organization. If I see you wearing your pin, I'll say "thank you". If you are not a member, join today. If you decide not to join, but just come to dinner meetings, make sure you say "thank you" to the members who show their commitment to the highway industry with their dues and with their time.

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## Revised Prices for Dinners and Technical Sessions

As you may be aware, **the cost of Dinner Meetings has increased by \$5, this season, with an advance reservation price of \$35 and an at-the-door price of \$45. The cost for public employees and students will remain at \$20.** The new costs remain low compared to those charged by other technical groups as we strive to negotiate the best deals we can to keep costs as low as we can.

**Additionally, Technical Sessions, which had been free in the past, will remain free for Section members (another benefit of ASHE membership!). Non-members wishing to attend will be assessed a \$20 charge for each Technical Session.**

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## From the Editor...

THE TRANSPORTATION TIMES, the newsletter of the Delaware Valley Section, is published and distributed to our members to advise and update all on current events and happenings in the Section.

If you have news items for future editions of THE TRANSPORTATION TIMES, please feel free to contact us.

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**16<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GOLF OUTING – HOLD THE DATE!**  
**Monday, July 11, 2011 - Blue Bell Country Club**  
**Sponsorships available**